

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1447

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CY

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON MAKARIOS

SUMMARY: MAKARIOS BELIEVES UNFICYP SHOULD BE REDUCED BY AT LEAST 50 PERCENT IF NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND DOWN TO 500 LEVEL IF AGREEMENT IS ACHIEVED. END SUMMARY

1. IN 45- MINUTE BAPTISMAL MEETING JUNE 22 ARCHBISHOP TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT A REDUCED UNFICYP WOULD BE DESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT. SUBJECT AROSE WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLED MAKARIOS' ATTENTION TO SCALI STATEMENT IN SECURITY COUNCIL JUNE 15 IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE HOW SERIOUS USG WAS IN SEEING SIZE AND CHARACTER OF FORCE RADICALLY ALTERED.

2. NODDING AGREEMENT MAKARIOS WAS QUICK TO DECLARE THAT WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, THE FORCE HAD TO BE CUT. IT " SHOULD BE" AT LEAST 50 PERCENT IF NO AGREEMENT REALIZED AND ALL THE WAY DOWN TO " SOMETHING LIKE 500" IF HOPEFULLY AGREEMENT COMES. EITHER WAY, THE REMAINING FORCE WOULD HAVE TO BE REDESIGNATED HE SAID. HE WOULD BE AGAINST A TOTAL AND ABRUPT WITHDRAWAL OF UN PRESENCE EVEN IF AGREEMENT REALIZED. PARENTHETICALLY, HE BELIEVES THAT FORCE REDUCTION ABSENT AGREEMENT WOULD BE SALUTARY IN ACHIEVING SOME MEASURE OF DECONFRONTATION BETWEEN GREEKS AND

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TURKS ON THE GROUND.

3. ON PRESENT STATUS OF TALKS MAKARIOS REPEATED FAMILIAR REFRAIN THAT IF TURKISH DEMANDS ON AUTONOMY WERE MODIFIED AN AGREEMENT COULD BE STRUCK. GOC WILL NOT GRANT TURKISH COMMUNITY STATUS OF STATE WITHIN STATE, BUT HE IS NOT DISCOURAGED, SAYING THAT IF IT NOT IN THE CARDS NOW TALKS MUST CONTINUE " THREE MONTHS, SIX MONTHS, A YEAR." AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT US HAS SOME EXPERIENCE IN NEGOTIATIONS WHERE OBJECTIVES OF BOTH SIDES APPEARED IRRECONCILABLE BUT REQUIREMENTS ON BOTH TO REMAIN AT THE TABLE ARE COMPELLING.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF POSSIBLE RECESS IN TALKS MAKARIOS PREFERS AUGUST WHEN HE WILL BE IN CANADA FOR COMMONWEALTH MEETING. CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT HE WANTED TO BE ON HAND TO RIDE HERD ON CLERIDES. TIMING OF RECESS WOULD COINCIDE WITH DESIRE OF OSORIO- TAFALL WHO TOLD AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY HE AND PREM CHAND WOULD LIKELY BE GOING TO NEW YORK IN AUGUST. TURKS' PREFERENCE ON RECESS HAS BEEN FOR JULY PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE ALDIKACTI WANTS TO VACATION THEN IN EUROPE. ODDS ARE IF RECESS OCCURS IT WILL BE IN AUGUST, OR PERHAPS FOR MOST OF BOTH MONTHS.

5. IN EARLIER BRIEF MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER, AMBASSADOR GAVE HIM COPY OF SCALI UNSC STATEMENT AND UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO QUESTION OF UNFICYP RESTRUCTURING.

6. FOREIGN MINISTRY (VENIAMIN) HAD EARLIER SKETCHED OUT VIEWS VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE EXPRESSED BY ARCHBISHOP, BUT HAS SAID GOC NOT PRESSING THEM PUBLICLY BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD SIMPLY GENERATE TURKISH PRESSURE TO KEEP UNFICYP AT PRESENT LEVEL. WE AGREED INFORMALLY AS TO MERITS OF THIS APPROACH, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ARCHBISHOP TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN PRIVATELY TO UNSYG AND PERHAPS TO OTHER CONTRIBUTORS SUCH AS BRITISH. WE WILL ENCOURAGE HIM IN THAT DIRECTION.

COMMENT: THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION WITH ONLY AMBASSADOR PRESENT ATMOSPHERE UTTERLY SERENE. MAKING UNNECESSARY APOLOGIES FOR HIS ENGLISH, MAKARIOS SPOKE NOSTALGICALLY ABOUT HIS DAYS AS STUDENT IN BOSTON, HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT
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KENNEDY, WHOM HE HAD KNOWN AS SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS, AND OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1971. HE PRAISED PRESIDENT NIXON FOR HIS BOLD INITIATIVES IN EAST/ WEST RELATIONS. EXUDING DIVINE CONFIDENCE, HE SAID DETERMINEDLY THAT CYPRUS WOULD REMAIN POLICALLY NON- ALIGNED BUT ALWAYS ORIENTED INTELLECTUALLY TO THE WEST.

7. EVEN IF ALL OF THIS WAS TO SHOW ONLY HIS WINNING SIDE, IT WAS MORE THAN JUST GOOD THEATRE. ALL HERE AGREE THAT EVERYTHING MAKARIOS SAYS MUST BE PARSED CAREFULLY. THEREFORE, IT WAS EASILY THE MOST VALUABLE 45 MINUTES THE AMBASSADOR HAS SPENT SO FAR. THE ARCHBISHOP INVITED THE AMBASSADOR TO ASSUME THAT A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT NEED NOT INVOLVE ONLY CYPRUS.

8. ESCORTING THE AMBASSADOR OUTSIDE MAKARIOS COMMENTED ON THE BURDENS OF BEARING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH AND STATE AND HOW HE MUST PARCEL HIS TIME. SMILING BENEIFICENTLY, HE REMARKED THAT HIS TEMPORAL OFFICE WAS " AFTER ALL ONLY TEMPORARY."

9. DRIVING AWAY ONE CAN' T FAIL BUT NOTICE THAT HER MAJESTY' S COAT OF ARMS IS STILL INSCRIBED IN STONE ABOVE THE ENTRANCE TO THIS FORMER RESIDENCE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNOR GENERAL. THE SIGHT OF THE ARCHBISHOP BIDDING FAREWELL FROM UNDER THE HERALDIC INSCRIPTION " HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE" AND " DIEU ET MON DROIT" IS NOTHING LESS THAN SHEER POETRY. BEAUTIFUL*
MC CLOSKEY

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